(d) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in this project and by when it is likely to start; and

(e) by when the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) There was no proposal before the Government to end the Public Distribution System by providing case for food. However, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals to approve a scheme on pilot basis in five districts – Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families instead of distribution of foodgrains to them under TPDS. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under the TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Use of mobil oil to enhance size and shining of pulses

†181. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobil oil and other toxicants are being used by black marketers to enhance the size and shining of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified such black marketers and punished them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foodgrain quota for Kerala

182. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrain quota for Kerala was cut for the last few months thereby jeopardizing the statutory rationing system in the State;

(b) if so, the quota demanded by the State Government, actually allocated the Central Government and off take by the State Government during the year 2008 and 2009, month-wise so far;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what are the reasons for cutting the monthly quota for the State; and

(d) whether the State Government has demanded restoration of State's full quota needed to maintain the public distribution system in the State and if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) Allocation of food grains for APL and AAY families have been maintained @ 35 kg per family per month as per entitlement for all States and UTs, including Kerala. However, allocations of APL rice to States and UTs are being made based on availability of food grains in the Central Pool.

In 2008-09, allocation of rice was initially made on the basis of average of offtake in the previous two years. However, allocation of wheat was made at 2007-08 level. Kerala was thus made initial annual allocation of 2.05 lakh tons of rice and 1.41 lakh tons of wheat in 2008-09. However, subsequently, *adhoc*/additional/festival allocation of 1.46 lakh tons of rice was made taking the total rice allocation to the State to 3.51 lakh tons as against the pervious year's allocation of lakh tons and offtake of 2.94 lakh tons. In addition, annual allocation of 1.61 lakh tons of wheat under APL category has also been made.

Requests have been received from the State Government for restoration of monthly rice allocation to 1.13 lakh tons as it was in 2006-07. However, considering the fact that offake of APL rice during 2008-09 in Kerala was less than the allocation of 3.51 lakh tons, for 2009-10, monthly allocation of APL rice has been made at 36056 tons, which makes the annual allocation to 4.33 lakh tons, substantively higher as compared to last year. The State is also being made normal monthly allocation of 11777 tons wheat per month under APL category.

National Food Security Act

183. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce National Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) As per the President's Address to Parliament on 4th June, 2009, the Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act to provide for assured food security for all citizens and to make entitled, by law, every family below the poverty line in rural and urban areas to 25 kgs of rice or wheat per month @ Rs.3 per kg.

In order to frame the proposed law, Government has initiated necessary action. Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with State Governments, various Central Ministries, experts and other stake holders is presently in progress.